

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the issues raised in the above referenced Office Action is respectfully solicited.

The objection to the drawings for including reference numerals not mentioned in the description has been considered. The specification has been amended to add the missing reference numerals. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection and approval of the formal drawings is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claim 10 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite has been considered. Claim 10 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the operating system. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 have been amended. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claims 11 and 12 remain as originally presented. Claims 13-21 have been added.

The rejection of Claims 1-12 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Bernardo, U.S. Patent No. 5 350 213 has been considered.

Figure 5 of Bernardo illustrates a lock bolt 56 that projects outwardly from a lock apparatus. As illustrated in Figures 7 and 8 of Bernardo, lock bolts 56 are on opposing ends of the locking apparatus. Each lock bolt 56 is received in an opening in a respective one of the side walls of a pick-up truck.

Applicants' claimed invention is directed to a locking device 3 that locks into recesses 5 of a vehicle fixed retaining device 2 defined by an opening in a side wall as illustrated in Figure 2. The locking device 3 illustrated in Figures 3-5 includes locks 4, 4a for extending outwardly in plural directions from the locking device. Figure 4 shows side locks 7a projecting outwardly from sides of a main lock 4a that first projects outwardly from the locking device 3a. Figure 5 shows side locks 7b for moving in an arcuate path.

Amended Claim 1 now recites that "the at least one locking device has at least two movable locks, a first one of

said locks being movable in a first direction that is parallel to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle".

Bernardo only discloses a pair of lock bolts 56 that are movable in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle. There is no disclosure, suggestion or obvious way that the apparatus of Bernardo can be modified to provide a lock or latch moving in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle. To do so, would require a complete modification of both the side wall of the vehicle and the lock apparatus.

For the above reasons reconsideration and allowance of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 2-6 and 8-12 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1. Furthermore, Claim 2 recites that "said at least two locks are movably supported independently of one another". This arrangement differs from Bernardo wherein the lock bolts 56 are both controlled by a lock set handle 36 to deploy at the same time.

Applicants' Claim 3 recites that "a second one of said at least two locks is movably supported for movement in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction". As discussed above, Bernardo only discloses locks 56 moving in opposing directions along the same axis.

For the above reasons, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 2-6 and 8-12 is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-21 have been added. Independent Claim 13 corresponds to the embodiments shown in Applicants' Figures 4 and 5. The embodiments include a main lock 4a, 4b projecting outwardly from a locking device 3a, 3b and side locks 7a, 7b projecting from the main lock 4a, 4b. More specifically, Claim 13 recites a mounting system with a locking device including "a main lock for projecting outwardly from the locking device, said main lock including a side lock mounted therein for projecting laterally from the main lock".

Bernardo discloses a lock bolt 56 projecting from a locking device. Bernardo, however, does not show or suggest a

side lock mounted in the lock bolt 56, much less projecting laterally from the lock bolt.

Dependent Claims 14-18 are allowable for the same reasons as Claim 13. Furthermore, Claim 15 corresponds to the specific embodiment illustrated in Applicants' Figure 4 having side locks movable in a linear direction. Claim 16 corresponds to the embodiment shown in Figure 5 having side locks movable in an arcuate direction.

Applicants' independent Claim 19 recites a mounting system including a locking device having a housing and "first, second and third locks located within the housing for projecting outwardly from the housing, said first lock for projecting outwardly in a first direction to mate with the first recess, said second and third locks projecting outwardly in opposing directions to mate with the second and third recesses, respectively".

Bernardo discloses first and second locks projecting in opposing directions to mount within different retaining devices at different side walls of a vehicle. There is no disclosure or suggestion of an additional lock projecting outwardly in a direction to mate with an additional recess in a side wall.

Dependent Claims 20 and 21 further describe the operating device for controlling linear movement of the locks. The operating devices of Claims 20 and 21 correspond to the embodiments illustrated in Applicants' Figures 8 and 9, respectively.

For the above reasons, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 13-21 is respectfully requested.

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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